

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION FROM INDIAN EMBASSY

1. INDIAN DCM, GONSALVES, CALLED DEP ASST SECRETARY DUBS ON APRIL 28 TO SAY THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A CLARIFICATION OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S RECENT ALLUSION TO A "THREAT FROM THE SEA." GONSALVES SAID THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS REFERRING TO PAKISTAN AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS CLARIFICATION HAD BEEN MADE PUBLICLY.

2. GONSALVES WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WOULD NO DOUBT BE SOME STATEMENTS ON INDOCHINA AT THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA. HE SAID THESE STATEMENTS COULD NOT BE AVOIDED BUT UNDERLINED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTENTION OF GIVING SUCH STATEMENTS AN ANTI-AMERICAN CAST OR TO BRUISE U.S. SENSITIVITIES.

3. IN ADDITION, GONSALVES SAID THAT WHEN INDIANS TALK ABOUT

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IMPERIALISTS AND COLONIALISTS THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES

SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH STATEMENTS ARISE OUT OF THE INDIAN SUBCONSCIOUS AND SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF INDIA'S PAST. MOST IMPORTANT, STATEMENTS ON IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE READ AS BEING

ANTI-AMERICAN.

4. GONSALVES ADDED THAT INDIA REMAINED INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING WITH THE UNITED STATES A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE, WHICH ADMITTEDLY WAS RATHER SHAKY AT THE MOMENT. ACCORDING TO GONSALVES, THE GOI WAS INTERESTED IN MOVING AHEAD ON JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.

5. WE SURMISE THAT GONSALVES WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT REMONSTRANCES BOTH HERE AND IN NEW DELHI MAY BE HAVING SOME IMPACT. KISSINGER

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